

CHARLIE MELANCON
3RD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
404 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4031

DISTRICT OFFICES:
8201 WEST JUDGE PEREZ DRIVE
CHALMETTE, LA 70043
(504) 271-1707
828 SOUTH IRMA BLVD., SUITE 107
GONZALES, LA 70737
(225) 621-8490
423 LAFAYETTE STREET, SUITE 107
HOUMA, LA 70360
(985) 876-3033
124 EAST MAIN STREET
SUITE 220-A
NEW IBERIA, LA 70560
(337) 367-8231

June 10, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-218, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

As you may be aware, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike battered Louisiana, severely damaging homes and businesses across the state and leaving millions of our residents without power for weeks. These storms directly impacted many of our communities that were working to fully recover from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Although these storms happened over three years ago, communities across south Louisiana are still struggling to get their economies back on track. Reduced local revenues are hindering the post-Katrina and Rita rebuilding progress, and local governments have had to further stretch their budgets to pay for debris removal and the rebuilding of damaged public facilities after Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

Under your leadership, Congress adjusted the cost share for recovery and rebuilding activities after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This was extremely helpful to local communities that were struggling to make the non-federal share. On behalf of my constituents, who have endured four devastating storms in three years, I ask that you consider adjusting Hurricanes Gustav and Ike cost shares. This would be tremendously helpful to the State and our efforts to fully and quickly rebuild from these storms. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

CHARLIE MELANCON
Member of Congress